

Constant light intensity



A good light installation in a dairy barn increases the milk production by six to 15% according to Gelein Biewenga, a researcher at PV Lelystad (the Dutch governmental organisation for dairy research).

Light influences the hormones and thus fertility, milk production and behaviour. When cows receive 16 hours of light per day between 150 and 200 lux, and after that eight hours of darkness, production can increase by six to 15% versus the average situation in a dairy barn.

According to Gelein it should be completely dark in the eight hours of darkness, otherwise the results will be negatively influenced.

The advised intensity of light corresponds to one fluorescent

tube fixture of 58 watt on 15m². Manufacturer of fixtures, Agrilight bv from the Netherlands, produces high pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures for livestock buildings. The company also produce a dimmable version of the high pressure sodium fixture with a management unit that controls the light intensity in the barn.

Dairy farmer Wout van Zandbrink from Leusden is the first user of this fully automated system. In his 15m x 22m barn he has installed six high pressure sodium fixtures.

Zandbrink chose these lights because the fixtures save 20 to 30% on energy and because of the longer lifetime of the bulbs. The distribution of the light is also better with these fixtures.

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Kemira unveils new name



Kemira GrowHow has introduced its new name and identity to the dairy world.

Trading over the last 80 years under the ownership of Kemira, the Finnish chemicals multinational, the company has built an enviable reputation for high quality fertiliser and animal nutrition products.

By featuring both Kemira and GrowHow in its new name and logo the company aims to maintain a link with its strong heritage while emphasising focus on the future through the unique descriptive word GrowHow.

In line with the strategy developed over the last 18 months, the company now concentrates exclusively on its goal of becoming the preferred partner in the food chain business.

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Natural udder cleaning



Dairy farmers in Switzerland alone have used agroclean wood wool for over 40 years now and demand is still on the rise.

The main capital asset of the dairy farmer is arguably his dairy cattle and for this reason alone, milking cows 'deserve' attentive,

scrupulous and natural udder care. And, the subsequent benefits for the dairy farmer as well, lie literally in his own hands.

Agroclean udder cleaning wood wool is naturally clean, ecologically compatible, germ, dust and splinter free and free of timber preservatives

Agroclean udder cleaning wood wool is manufactured with the greatest industrial care from 'FSC' certified timber, harvested from Swiss woodland. Only untreated and bark stripped timber goes into production. The long matured and entirely dried out tree trunks are decimated with a special planing machine to produce an especially fine quality wood wool.

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